

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

It is an object of the present invention addressing the problems described above to shorten the time it takes to carry out a correction in focusing control by execution of the correction with a predetermined timing by moving an optical pickup to a location, which data has already been recorded at and is ~~closest to~~ in the neighborhood of a current position of the optical pickup in a recording or playback operation being carried out, and using an RF signal represented the data already recorded at the ~~closest~~ neighbor location.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

To achieve the above object, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recording and playback apparatus, including: judgment means for forming a judgment as to whether or not to correct focus precision in an operation to record data onto an Nth track of a recording medium or play back data from the Nth track; and correction means which is used for correcting the focus precision if the judgment means forms a judgment to correct the focus precision in the operation to record data onto the Nth track of the recording medium or play back data from the Nth track by using a signal representing data existing on an already recorded track in the neighborhood of ~~closest to~~ the Nth track.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A recording and playback method according to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recording and playback method, including: a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether or not to correct focus precision in an operation to record data onto an

Nth track of a recording medium or play back data from the Nth track; and a correction step which is executed for correcting the focus precision if, at the judgment step, a judgment is formed to correct the focus precision in the operation to record data onto the Nth track of the recording medium or play back data from the Nth track by using a signal representing data existing on an already recorded track in the neighborhood of closest to the Nth track.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

A recording medium according to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a program recorded on the recording medium, including: a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether or not to correct focus precision in an operation to record data onto an Nth track of a recording medium or play back data from the Nth track; and a correction step which is executed for correcting the focus precision if, at the judgment step, a judgment is formed to correct the focus precision in the operation to record data onto the Nth track of the recording medium or play back data from the Nth track by using a signal representing data existing on an already recorded track in the neighborhood of closest to the Nth track.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the recording and playback apparatus described in the first aspect, the recording and playback method described in the second aspect and the recording medium described in the third aspect of the present invention, if a judgment is formed to correct the focus precision in an operation to record data onto an Nth track of a recording medium or play back data from the Nth track, the focus precision is corrected by using a signal representing data existing on an already recorded track in the neighborhood of closest to the Nth track.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

As described above, while a recording or playback operation is being carried out, the focus precision is corrected by using an RF signal played back to represent data already recorded on a track in the neighborhood of ~~closest to~~ the current position of the optical pickup 17. Thus, the focus precision can be corrected in a short period of time and with a high degree of accuracy. As a result, processing to record or play back data in a real-time manner can be prevented from being disturbed by the correction of the focus precision.